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Wendy Dixon, EIS Project Manager
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 30307, Mail Stop 010
North Las Vegas, Nevada 89036-0307

RE: Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Geologic Repository for Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste, Yucca Mountain, Nevada.

Dear Ms. Dixon:

Thank you for providing Texas Parks and Wildlife with the draft Environmental Impact Statement regarding the proposed disposal site at Yucca Mountain, Nevada for spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste. Staff reviewed the information provided and offers the following comments and recommendations regarding the proposed site. These comments and recommendations are intended to assist you with minimizing the potential impacts of the project on fish and wildlife resources within the State of Texas.

The proposed action is to construct, operate, and monitor a geologic repository at Yucca Mountain in southern Nevada for the disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste. This waste is currently in storage at 72 commercial and 5 Department of Energy sites across the United States. The EIS evaluates potential long-term impacts, transportation and storage of these materials. The only sites in Texas that would be contributing spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste to this would be the Comanche Peak plant, west of the Dallas/Fort Worth area, and the South Texas Plant near Bay City.

The EIS proposes two scenarios for transportation of the spent fuel and radioactive waste: legal-weight truck and railway. Under the legal-weight truck scenario the trucks would travel from the sites to the repository on the U.S. Interstate Highway system. There are no new highways proposed for transportation of these materials except at the repository site. The railway scenario assumes that the rail transportation will use the existing U.S. railroad system for transportation to the repository. No new railroads are proposed in Texas under this scenario.

Since transportation of the materials will use either existing highways or railroads, there should be minimal impact to the resources from this aspect of the project. The primary potential impact to natural resources would be if a

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Wendy Dixon

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spill or leak would occur during transportation of these materials. That issue is covered in the EIS at length as to the methods and procedures of how a spill or leak would be addressed. Texas Parks and Wildlife has a Kills and Spills response team that investigates spills that result in damage to fish and wildlife resources. This team should be notified of any spills or leaks that occur while in Texas. Members of this team can be reached at (281) 842-8100; this number is available 24 hours a day.

We appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on the draft EIS.

Sincerely,



Kathy Boydston
Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program
Wildlife Division

KB:pmo.8738

cc: Melissa Parker TX -R-20010709-0001-50